

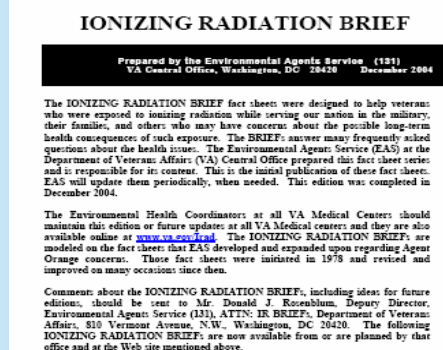
PRODUCTS

Ionizing Radiation Newsletter



<http://www1.va.gov/enviroagents/docs/IonizingRadiationNewsletterDec2004.pdf>

Ionizing Radiation Briefs Fact Sheet Series



<http://vaww1.va.gov/enviroagents/docs/IONIZINGRADIATIONBRIEF122004FINAL.doc>

PRODUCTS

Flu Poster



<http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/phshcg/InfectionDontPassItOn/Default.htm>

**Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Office of Public Health and
Environmental Hazards (13)**
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20420
(202) 273-8575
Winter 2005

THEY'RE HERE.....

**FROM NEWSLETTERS
TO POSTERS THE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC
HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
HAZARDS
HAS A UNIQUE
PORTFOLIO OF
PRODUCTS TO SERVE
OUR CUSTOMERS**

This brochure shows a sampling of products produced in the Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards that represents the diversity of our ongoing commitment to support and inform our customers and deliver products that are adaptable to customer needs.

For further information on these and other products contact our main website at:

<http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/pubhealth/>
<http://www.vethealth.cio.med.va.gov/>



Each product lists the program office web site

PRODUCTS

Newsletter

ENDURING FREEDOM VETERANS

Information for Veterans Who Served in Afghanistan
and For Their Families

December 2004

HEALTH CARE AND ASSISTANCE FOR U.S. VETERANS OF THE CONFLICT IN AFGHANISTAN

Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the United States responded by deploying military personnel in Southwest Asia. By January 2002, more than 30,000 active duty were involved. Additional reserve personnel were also called to duty. Currently, as part of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) U.S. troops are on the ground in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and neighboring countries of the former Soviet Union.

As in all hazardous deployments abroad, some service members may come back with deployment-related health problems. In Afghanistan, troops are especially at risk for local infectious diseases, traumatic injuries, and injuries due to cold exposure. As in all wars, some returning troops can come back with mental health problems that are a result of surviving any dangerous, life-threatening experience, and some return with symptoms that are difficult to explain.

This brochure describes some of the main health concerns for military service in this region of the world. It answers questions that veterans, their families, and health care providers may have. It also describes medical care programs that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has developed for veterans returning from combat or peacekeeping missions.

Background on Afghanistan

Afghanistan is an extremely poor, landlocked country about the size of Texas. Traditionally, Afghanistan is highly dependent on farming and raising livestock. Its capital is Kabul. The geography of its 34 provinces mostly consist of rugged mountains (up to 24,500 feet), as well as lower plains in the North and Southwest parts of the country. The climate is arid to semiarid, with cold winters and hot summers. The rainy season lasts from October to April.

After gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1919, Afghanistan experienced ongoing political and military devastation, including almost 10 years of Soviet military occupation, and more recently terrorism-related activities. Several years of continuous drought has led to widespread soil water shortages. As a consequence of

this threat, about one-third of its estimated population of about 28 million live in the country, many of them are thought to be in Pakistan and Iran. Those events have badly damaged Afghanistan's health and economy, resulting in a low average life expectancy at birth of about 42 years and purchasing power equal to about \$700 per person per year.

As a result of U.S. military involvement in the September 11, terrorist attack, many of al Qaeda leadership were killed or captured (although other leaders have emerged), and al Qaeda and the Taliban lost control of the government. Furthermore, a long delayed election was held (October 2004). Many Afghan refugees are now returning home.

Health Risks to U.S. Service Members

According to the Department of Defense (DoD), troops deployed to Afghanistan are faced with and continue to encounter a wide variety of potential health hazards, including numerous infectious diseases, cold injury, and high altitude illnesses. Environmental hazards may also pose a health risk to deployed forces, including exposure to sewage, agricultural and industrial contamination of water and food, air pollution, and severe sun and heat stress.


DoD is trying to minimize these risks by providing vaccinations, obtaining drinking water and food from outside of Afghanistan, and using standard pest control procedures. The remarkably low rates of serious infectious disease among U.S. military personnel during the 1995-1997 Gulf War deployment were the result of exceptional medical care, extensive preventive medicine efforts, use of insecticides and repellents, sanitation measures, and inspection of food and water. DoD is using similar health programs in Iraq.

High-Altitude Health Hazards, Including Cold Injury. Temperature and the high altitude in this region could adversely affect the health of deployed service members. High mountain areas increase the risks of cold injury due to the lower temperatures found at higher altitudes. Cold injury can be life-threatening. It was a serious problem for soldiers at the battle at the Chosin Reservoir in Korea during the Korean War. Working at high altitudes without proper acclimatization also can result in serious illness due to reduced oxygen and lower air pressure. Common immediate symptoms of mountain sickness include headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, fatigue, irritability, and coughing.

Department of Veterans Affairs

<http://vaww.va.gov/environagents/>
<http://www.va.gov/environagents/>


Influenza Flyer



DROPLET PRECAUTIONS
In addition to Standard Precautions

- ✓ Place patient in a private room. If a private room is not available, contact your facility's Infection Control Professional.
- ✓ Wear a mask upon entering a patient's room. Remove your mask when leaving the patient's room and dispose of your mask in a regular waste container.
- ✓ Have the patient wear a mask when being transported.

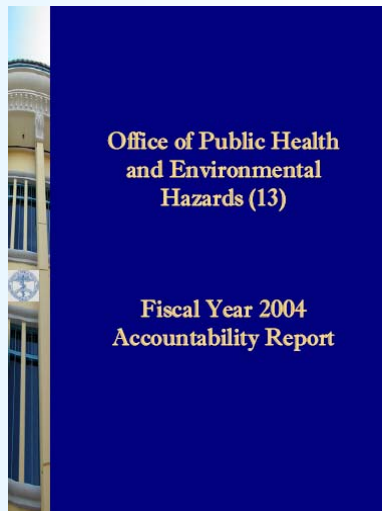
Decontaminate hands before and after contact with patients, and wear eye/face protection if performing cough-inducing procedures.

 www.publichealth.va.gov/InfectionDontPassItOn
Suggested use: Post outside patient rooms.

<http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/phshcg/InfectionDontPassItOn/Default.htm>

PRODUCTS

Accountability Report



**Office of Public Health
and Environmental
Hazards (13)**

**Fiscal Year 2004
Accountability Report**

<http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/pubhealth/>
<http://www.vethealth.cio.med.va.gov/>

VHA Handbook

Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Washington, DC 20420

VHA HANDBOOK 1302.1
Transmittal Sheet
October 5, 2004

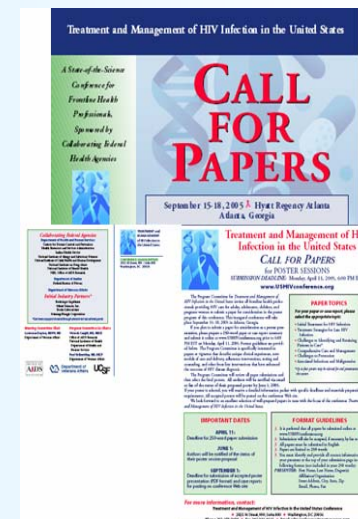
AGENT ORANGE REGISTRY (AOR) PROGRAM PROCEDURES TO INCLUDE ALL VETERANS EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE AND SPECIAL HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR VIETNAM VETERANS' CHILDREN

1. REASON FOR ISSUE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook establishes new reporting procedures for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), VHA, Environmental Agents Service (EAS) Agent Orange Registry Program

<http://vaww.va.gov/environagents/>
<http://www.va.gov/environagents/>

PRODUCTS

Treatment and Management of HIV Infection in the United States



Treatment and Management of HIV Infection in the United States

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FOR ABSTRACTS
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<http://www.ushivconference.org>

Influenza Flyer



When you care for a patient with suspected or confirmed INFLUENZA, remember to:

- ✓ Place patient in a private room. If a private room is not available, contact your facility's Infection Control Professional.
- ✓ Wear a mask upon entering a patient's room. Remove your mask when leaving the patient's room and dispose of your mask in a regular waste container.
- ✓ Have the patient wear a mask when being transported.

Decontaminate hands before and after contact with patients, and wear eye/face protection if performing cough-inducing procedures.

 www.publichealth.va.gov/InfectionDontPassItOn
Suggested use: Post in clinical staff areas or use as a flyer. Do not post in patient rooms.

<http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/phshcg/InfectionDontPassItOn/Default.htm>